

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
814 THEODORE LEVIN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
231 W. LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

DAVID J. WEAVER
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
313-234-5051
Fax 313-234-5399

DIVISIONAL OFFICES
ANN ARBOR
BAY CITY
FLINT
PORT HURON

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL RULES

At its regular meeting on June 7, 2010, the Court approved for publication and comment proposed new E.D. Mich. LR 47.1, Juror Communication.

In order to be assured consideration, comments in writing, which may include recommended changes to the proposed amendments, should be received by the Court not later than Wednesday, September 1, 2010. Comments may be sent to Local_Rules@mied.uscourts.gov or Local Rules, 814 Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

LR 47.1 Juror Communication

(a) During the course of a trial, parties and attorneys must refrain from having contact with jurors before a verdict is returned.

(b) Once summoned to a courtroom for selection and until discharged, jurors must refrain from any outside contact or communication that relates to the case, which includes the use of cell phones, Blackberries, iPhones, the Internet, e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging, chat rooms, blogs, or the use of social networking websites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, YouTube, or Twitter.

(c) Parties and attorneys learning of a violation of this rule must immediately notify the judicial officer presiding over the trial.

(d) Any person wilfully violating this rule may be subject to sanctions.

COMMENT: The court is encouraged to instruct the jury at the beginning of trial and before deliberations about these restrictions. See, for example, the suggested jury instruction prepared by the Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, December 2009.

July 15, 2010